

THE NATIONAL ERA.

L. P. NOBLE, PUBLISHER.

G. BAILEY, JUN., EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR; J. G. WHITTIER, CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

BUELL & BLANCHARD, PRINTERS.

VOL. II.

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1848.

NO. 101.

The National Era is Published Weekly, on Seven Streets, opposite the Patent Office.

TERMS.

Two dollars per annum, payable in advance.
Advertisements not exceeding ten lines inserted three times for one dollar; every subsequent insertion, twenty-five cents.

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"Mr. W. R. Palmer, at his newspaper agency, New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore, is authorized to procure advertisements for this paper."

"Within the last week we have received two or three requests for a digest of papers obtained without informing us to what city, county, or State, the papers have heretofore been sent. Without these, we cannot change the direction."

"We invite the attention of those who are remitting money to the publisher of this paper to the following table, showing the rate of discount on unremitted money in this country, next to that which those who send money will be allowed to send on bank bills at the lowest discount:

| | | |
|----------------------|---|---------------|
| Washington, D. C. | - | Par. |
| Baltimore | - | Per cent. do. |
| Philadelphia | - | Per cent. do. |
| New York City | - | Per cent. do. |
| New York State | - | Per cent. do. |
| New Jersey | - | Per cent. do. |
| Eastern Pennsylvania | - | Per cent. do. |
| Western Pennsylvania | - | Per cent. do. |
| Maryland | - | Per cent. do. |
| Virginia | - | Per cent. do. |
| Western Virginia | - | Per cent. do. |
| Ohio | - | Per cent. do. |
| Indiana | - | Per cent. do. |
| Kentucky | - | Per cent. do. |
| Tennessee | - | Per cent. do. |
| Michigan | - | Per cent. do. |
| Canada | - | Per cent. do. |

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WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 4, 1848.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

In England, as in this country, great efforts are made to create a public sentiment against capital punishment. Formerly, the criminal code of England was a bloody one, but of late years it has been greatly mitigated by the abolition of the death punishment for other offenses.

Our friends, however, avoid the abolition of the penalties, so as to move upon a sharper reasoning, than appeals to facts; they display much ingenuity in discussing the theological view, and the question whether Human Government has a right to take life in any case. Our transatlantic friends are more practical. They investigate with great care the statistics of crime, and dwell upon the comparative effects upon its prevention, or ultimate removal, under the successive changes in the criminal code. The London *Electric* contains numerous interesting facts and figures upon this subject, some of which it will be instructive to notice.

It is admitted that the number of the crimes for which the punishment by death has been removed, increased from 1836 to 1846, 70 per cent.; but the force of the inference that might be drawn in favor of capital punishment from this, is destroyed by several considerations. For example, when the penalty for rape was death, prosecutors would often drop the charge, and the jury, and save itself with impunity. This penalty being changed, prosecutions were vigorously urged for the real crime, so that the criminal tables showed an increase, which, however, was only apparent. So, when, having ceased to be a capital offence, the law then found the crime anew, embracing offences committed between certain hours of the evening and morning, a much larger portion of the twenty-four hours, and not, as formerly, those alone committed during darkness. The tables of commitment and conviction would therefore show an increase of crimes of violence, whereas there was, therefore, an real increase of the crime. Again, when *murder* was capital, it was customary to include under one head only the capital commitments; but hanging for this crime having been abolished, commitments are classed under the same head, which were never capital offences, constituting a very large proportion of the entire number of forgeries.

(In passing, we may remark, that these examples demonstrate what meticulous errors mere tables of statistics, without accompanying references to documents, may lead to.)

In Greece the Thirt's time, too, when 200 of women were punishable with death, crime increased 150 per cent. in four years.

Finally, if the crimes on which the death-penalty has been removed, have increased 70 per cent. since the removal, the crime on which it has been retained, has increased in the same time 15 per cent!

The following official table is relied on to prove the effect of diminution of executions on the number of murders:

In England, in the 7 years ending

1836-1842, total for all crimes - 182,967, 1831

Total number of murders convicted - 111,113, 105

"We will now show that the fewer executions, in proportion to the number of murders, produces the fewer murders in future years. We select, from a great mass of evidence, the following re-

port:

"Colonel Shiel has written that I had given a promise. What did I say to him? that he could not be satisfied, that he could not be satisfied with the execution of black slaves, he should be means of preventing 5,000 black slaves from being sold into slavery. Moolahs, according to our religion, hold a sin greater than we will be held responsible for it."

"Colonel Shiel has written, that he issued their decrees to withdraw, that should an

"Appears that the British Resident at Teheran, not satisfied with this concession, exacted for the non-fulfilment of a solemn engagement on the part of the Shah, still continued to urge the matter, and to remind the devout equivalent of his promise. Haje Meena replies as follows:

"The Shah did not write, that he issued their decrees to withdraw, that should an

"We will take the thirty-two years ending

1842, (London and Middlesex,) and dividing this period into two periods of sixteen years each, we get the following striking result: In the first six years we were compelled to furnish a sum of thirty-four in number, were executed. The rules of the time precluded that no mercy whatever should be shown to the murderer; that, if convicted, he should be hanged. In short, notwithstanding this inexorable rigor, 188 murders were committed during this period. In the second six years, the result was precisely the same: during the sixteen years, out of twenty-seven persons convicted only seven were hanged; and yet there had many persons who were condemned to the whole punishment. With only 26 per cent. of executions, the crime decreased more than one-half!"

These are interesting statements. After all, the question concerning the proper punishments

for crime must be decided by their relations to the preservation of the order and well-being of society, which we are to determine as much by a careful observation of facts as theoretical reasonings concerning human nature.

THE SHAH OF PERSIA AND THE SLAVE TRADE.

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annually laid before Parliament, among which is the correspondence between Colonel Shiel, on behalf of the British Government, and Haje Meera Aghaei, on behalf of the Shah of Persia. It appears that the latter dignitary, who is said to rival even the "Royal Jewish wolfish" in the number of his wives and female slaves, had virtually promised to furnish a firmar prohibiting the slave trade, and that he had been induced to do so, through the representations of the King of Persia, and the Shah himself.

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